

# PRESS RELEASE

July 27, 2006

## **DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

**RE: UNITED STATES v. RALPH E. HINEY, III**

Terrance P. Flynn, the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced today that Ralph E. Hiney, III, age 37, of Webster, New York, pled guilty in front of the Honorable David G. Larimer, United States District Court Judge, to receiving child pornography, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum of 20 years imprisonment, and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who handled the case, stated that on November 8, 2005, Hiney had taken his computer to Jeff's Computer Service in Webster, New York. While working on the computer, the computer service store found images of child pornography on Hiney's computer. The computer service store immediately contacted the Webster Police Department. The Webster Police Department seized the computer and submitted it for an examination, which revealed that Hiney possessed more than 150 images of child pornography on a computer and video camera he owned. He had received these images over the internet. Some of the child pornography images depicted prepubescent minors or minors under twelve years

old, and portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence.

Hiney's advisory sentencing range is between 78 and 97 months imprisonment. .

The conviction was the culmination of an joint investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Laurie J. Bennett , Special Agent in Charge, and the Webster Police Department, under the direction of Chief Gerald L. Pickering.

Sentencing for Hiney is scheduled for November 16, 2006, at 10:30 a.m.